

Fort Sheridan Artillery Barracks
(Building No. 84)
Leonard Wood Avenue
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-25

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/25-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IL-1113-25

FORT SHERIDAN, ARTILLERY BARRACKS (Building No. 84)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Location:

On Leonard Wood Avenue south of the parade grounds next to another building housing Artillery Barracks (Building No. 83).
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

HABS
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49-FTSH,
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USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16. 433220. 4674030.

Present Owner
and Occupant:

United States Army.

Present Use:

Administration.

Significance:

An example of an early 20th century barracks constructed from the standardized plans issued by the Office of the Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army. It was first used as artillery barracks and continued to house troops through World War II. In the 1960s the post museum was located in the building. It is currently utilized as administrative offices. The building is one of four which flank the Water Tower-Barracks complex in the center of the original post and contributes to the comprehensiveness of the historic building inventory at Fort Sheridan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1905.
2. Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General, U.S. Army.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: A two-and-a-half story, U-shaped, buff-cream brick building with a central projecting pavilion on the facade. The ridge of the gable roof of the main block runs east-west and the ridges of the roofs on the front gabled pavilion and rear wings run north-south. The building was constructed as barracks with a capacity of 145 men.

6. Alterations and additions: The exterior of the building remains close to its original condition. Some of the windows and doors have been modified. The original slate roof has been replaced with composition shingles. The interior was remodeled in 1943, 1953, 1956 and 1968.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.
Plans and elevations, 1902.

Office of the Quartermaster General, Plan No. 150, Descriptions of Special and Regular Drawings 1893-1915; Quartermaster Standard Construction Drawings, 1890-1918, and Plans for Standard Army Post Buildings, 1903-10. Record Group 77, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

2. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, Record Group 92. National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A long building with a central projecting pavilion on the facade. It lacks the distinctive character of the Holabird and Roche designs for Fort Sheridan constructed over a decade before. Modified Palladian windows in the gable ends are suggestive of the Georgian Revival style popular at the time of its construction.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main block is 38' by 140' and the central projecting pavilion is 29' by 3'. Each of the rear projecting wings measures 38' by 42'. The building is two-and-one-half stories high with a full basement and thirteen bays across the facade.
2. Foundations: Random ashlar limestone topped by a concrete water table.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Cream colored brick laid in stretcher bond.
4. Structural framing: Brick bearing wall and wood trussed rafter roof.
5. Porches: A two-story porch covers the central projecting pavilion on the facade. The porch, which rests on brick piers, is constructed of reinforced concrete with metal railings and supports painted peach color. A central flight of concrete stairs leads up to the first level. The flat roof is covered with seamed metal.

On the rear a single story porch resting on brick piers stretches between the two rear wings. The floor is reinforced concrete. The shed roof is covered with seamed metal. The metal railings and supports are painted peach color. The porch is approached by a central flight of concrete stairs.

6. Chimneys: One central interior brick chimney with a corbeled brick cap.
7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: None of the original doors remain on the exterior. Two central entrances, one in the front and one in the rear, now have double glass doors in metal frames. Above the door on the front the glass transom contains block white letters on a green background reading:

"United States Army Midwest Region Recruitment Command."

On the second story level of the porch on the facade there are recessed double wood doors with a six-light transom above the outer entrance.

There are five other entrances: One at the western end of the facade and two in each of the gable ends of the rear wings. one on the first floor level and one on the second. These doors are

metal with glass panels. The entrance on the west end of the facade was originally a window. The top part of the original window is infilled with a pink-red brick. This entrance is approached by a flight of concrete stairs with metal railings. The four entrances on the rear wings are reached by metal stairs.

- b. Windows: The windows on the first and second story levels have segmental arched, flat topped, gauged brick lintels. The sills are poured concrete. The windows are one-over-one-light double hung sash. Four windows at the attic level on the gable ends of the rear wings are similar but have two-over-two-light double hung sash. Many of the windows in the rear of the building have been infilled with glass brick with small rectangular lights installed in the center.

In the gable ends of the main building and of the central projecting wing on the facade modified Palladian windows provide the building's main decorative motif. The arch is formed by two projecting rows of headers. The central window is two-over-two double hung sash; the flanking windows are single sash with two lights. The wood frames of all the windows are painted a peach color.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The main building and the projecting wings have gabled roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The ridge of the roof on the main building runs east-west, and the ridges on the projecting wings run north-south.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Wood box cornices with returns on the gable ends are painted peach color.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior has been extensively remodeled for offices. What appears to be the original stairway is still in place in the central hall. The stairway has an open well and two flights. The stairs are open string. Turned wood balusters are painted an off white and the chamfered newel posts are painted black. The wood trusses of the roof structure are visible in the attic. In the basement, now used for offices, the limestone foundation forms the inner wall and has been covered with numerous coats of off white paint.

D. Site:

The building is at the eastern edge of the Water Tower-Barracks complex which dominates the southern side of the parade ground. It faces north on Leonard Wood Avenue. Trees along Leonard Wood Avenue and low evergreen shrubbery around the building provide the major landscaping features.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.